

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 086

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, NI

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS

REF: (A) STATE 157747 (B) LAGOS 6299

(C) STATE 156408 AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY: MEA SUGGESTING WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS TRAVEL TO NORTH AFTER MEETING OFFICIALS IN LAGOS. REQUEST GUIDANCE IN RESPONDING TO MEA'S TENTATIVE PLANNING. END SUMMARY.

1. DEPUTY DIRECTOR MEA'S AMERICA DEPARTMENT, EXPLAINING THAT EVERY VISITOR AND VISITING GROUP TRAVELS TO EBNIN AND PORT HARCOURT, INFORMED EMBOFF JULY 7 THAT MEA THINKING ON WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS TRAVEL HAS CHANGED: THEY ARE NOW OFFERING TRIP TO KADUNA AND KANO IN NIGERIAN NORTH. MEETING HELD AT REQUEST MEA.

2. UPSHOT OF MEA'S "TENTATIVE" PLANNING IS FOR WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS TO SPEND WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6 IN LAGOS, CALLING ON PERMSECS "OR OTHER OFFICIALS" IN MINISTRIES MINES AND POWER (OIL), ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND INDUSTRIES. (WE OF COURSE WILL SEEK SET UP ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS FOR GROUP IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUGGESTIONS MADE BY AMBASSADOR GARBA PARA 3 REFTEL (C).)

3. MEA WOULD HAVE GROUP LEAVE ON FLIGHT TO KADUNA THURSDAY
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AT 0915, ARRIVING 1020. NORTH CENTRAL STATE GOVERNMENT WOULD

ARRANGE PROGRAM, INCLUDING VISITS WITH ECONOMIC PLANNERS DURING ACTIVE SEVEN HOUR STAY. AT 1735 GROUP WOULD FLY TO KANO, ARRIVING AT 1805. OVERNIGHT KANO AND MEETINGS/BRIEFINGS WITH KANO STATE OFFICIALS PLUS TOUR OF CITY FOLLOWING MORNING FRIDAY, AUGUST 8. GROUP WOULD THEN CATCH FLIGHT AT 12:30 FOR RETURN TO LAGOS, ARRIVING AT 1435. AFTERNOON FREE.

4. OFFICIAL STRESSED MEA'S PLANNING ONLY IN TENTATIVE STAGE. WE SHOULD THEREFORE BE ABLE REITERATE PREFERENCE FOR MIDWEST OR RIVERS STATE IF GROUP PREFERS. HOWEVER, TRIP TO NORTH SHOULD BE INTERESTING AND OFFERS ADVANTAGE OF SHOWING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT CLIMATE, TERRAIN, PEOPLE AND CULTURE, ILLUSTRATING SIZE AND DIVERSITY OF NIGERIA. INASMUCH AS GROUP NOT RPT NOT INTERESTED IN OIL FACILITIES AS SUCH BUT RATHER IN DISCUSSING POLICIES AND FUTURE WITH NIGERIAN OFFICIALS, MEETINGS IN LAGOS MIGHT COVER THIS ADEQUATELY. GROUP WOULD FIND NIGERIANS IN NORTH NOT ONLY PLANNING FOR BUT ACTIVELY UTILIZING OIL REVENUES FOR DEVELOPMENT. MEA PROPOSAL SHOWS SOME INITIATIVE AND INTEREST IN WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS VISIT AND ON BALANCE WOULD HAVE EMBASSY'S SUPPORT IF WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS AGREEABLE AND TRANSPORTATION AND HOTEL LOGISTICS CAN BE WORKED OUT. THIS SCHEDULE WOULD LEAVE FRIDAY AFTERNOON FREE FOR SIGHTSEEING AND SHOPPING IN LAGOS. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP, SO WE CAN INFORM MEA AND ARRANGEMENTS CAN GO FORWARD.

5. FEDERAL PLACE HAS NO RPT NO SINGLES FOR DATES GROUP IN LAGOS, THEREFORE WAS HAVE RESERVED DOUBLES (PARA 1 REFTTEL C). GROUP MAY HAVE HAD FILL NIGERIAN CUISINE BY FRIDAY NIGHT BUT IF NOT, INDIVIDUALS MAY WISH SEEK OUT GOOD NIGERIAN RESTAURANTS. THOSE WHO AGREEABLE TAKING POT LUCK WELCOME IN HOMES EMBOFFS. (PARA 6 REFTTEL C). RE QUESTION NIGERIAN AIRWAYS FLIGHT SCHEDULE (PARA 2 REFTTEL C), THERE DAILY FLIGHT DEPARTING LAGOS FOR BENIN AT 0730 (WT 128) AS WELL AS MON/WED FLIGHT 120 LEAVING AT 1000. AS FOR RETURN, WT 143 DOES NOT RPT NOT FLY ON FRIDAYS. BUT THERE IS FLIGHT WT 145 (MTF) WHICH LEAVES BENIN 1130, ARRIVING LAGOS 1205. SHOULD BENIN TRIP BE INCLUDED IN FINAL SCHEDULE, SUGGEST TWA MAKE RESERVATIONS ON WT 120 AND RETURN ON WT 145.

EASUM

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